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COLONEL ISAAC WHITE

BY WILLIAM R. SANDHAM.

Colonel Isaac White, after whom the county of White in Illinois was named, was born in Prince William County, Virginia, in 1776, the year made famous by the Declaration of Independence.

Isaac White's father who was a man of good family and of considerable education, was a captain in the English marine service. About the time of the threatened rupture between England and her American Colonies, he resigned his commission and settled in Virginia where his son Isaac was born in 1776'. He joined a Virginia regiment and took an active part in the Revolutionary War. He was killed in battle toward the end of the war.

In the early part of 1800, the year that Indiana Territory, of which Illinois was a part, was created, Isaac White and his brother Thomas left Virginia to find a home in what was then the "great northwest." They settled at the then frontier village of Vincennes on the Wabash River, where both took a leading part in the activities of the new territory. Isaac married Miss Sallie Leech, the eldest daughter of Judge George Leech of Vincennes. Mr. and Mrs. White commenced housekeeping and farming on a farm which Judge Leech gave his daughter.

During the time that Illinois was a part of Indiana Territory, the United States owned and operated extensive salt works on Saline River in what is now Gallatin County, Illinois, of which Isaac White was appointed superintendent, September 30, 1805, by General William Henry Harrison, then Governor of Indiana Territory. He was appointed captain of a company of militia by Governor Harrison,

September 20, 1806. He was appointed a colonel in the Illinois militia in 1810 by Ninian Edwards, Governor of Illinois Territory. Soon after this last appointment he resigned the superintendency of the government salt works to take part in the military service under Governor Harrison. He served in the campaign against the Indians in Indiana. He was killed in the battle of Tippecanoe, November 5, 1811. Colonel White was an able and brave officer and his untimely death was greatly lamented both in Indiana and Illinois.

The General Assembly of Illinois created a new county, December 9, 1815, and named it White to honor and perpetuate the name of Colonel Isaac White.

Colonel Jo Daviess, after whom Jo Daviess County, Illinois, was named, was also killed in the battle of Tippecanoe.

SHAWNEETOWN, ILLINOIS, January 18, 1900.

MR. WILLIAM R. SANDHAM, WYOMING, ILLINOIS.

MY DEAR SIR:—

Your letter of 13th relative to Col. Isaac White came duly to hand. Hon Charles Carroll of this city happens to have a sketch of the colonel's life prepared by his grandson, George Fauntleroy White, now of Washington, D. C.

According to this memoir, Col. White was born in Prince William County, Virginia, shortly after the beginning of the Revolutionary War. His grandson says the exact year of his birth is not positively known, but from the record of his initiation, in 1811, as a member of the Masonic Lodge of Vincennes, Ind., in which his age is stated to be 35 years, and from family notes to which he had access, it is altogether likely that he was born in the year 1776. The Colonel's father was probably of English origin, and was a man of education and good family and prior to his settling in Virginia held a captain's commission in the British Merchant Marine service. When the war of the Revolution began, he surrendered his commission and took up arms against the British Government. He lost

his life near the end of the war fighting for the independence of his adopted country. The re-marriage of his mother was displeasing to Isaac and his elder brother, Thomas, and soon afterward, in the beginning of 1800, they sought a new and more adventurous career in the great Northwest Territory, coming to Vincennes, then a small village, in a sparsely settled country. Young White was evidently handsome, brave and well-bred, and at once won his way to the hearts of everybody. Here he soon married Sallie, the eldest daughter of Judge George Leech, who gave her as a present 100 acres of land granted him by General Wm. Henry Harrison, Governor of Indiana Territory, and which is now a part of the White-Hall Farm, in Knox County, and on this tract the young married couple moved.

On the 30th day of April, 1805, Gov. Harrison appointed Isaac White as agent of the U. S. at the salt works on Saline Creek in Gallatin County, Ill. On the 8th day of September 1806, Gov. Harrison appointed Isaac White a captain of a militia company of Knox County. While residing at the salt works, he was appointed a colonel, probably in the militia of Illinois Territory, which was organized under the Act of Congress of Feb. 3, 1809.

Not long after this he sold out his interest in the salt works and returned to Vincennes.

The entire sketch from which I am collecting these facts, is intensely interesting. I know only of the one copy and cannot ask leave to send it to you, but I make no doubt on application to Geo. F. White in care of the P. O. Dept., Washington, D. C., you will receive one as it is not likely the edition is exhausted yet. If however you cannot obtain one let me know and I will have my typewriter make copious extracts from the one now in my possession and forward to you.

Hoping I have somewhat aided you in your laudable endeavors, I am

Yours truly,

CARL ROEDEL.